

Indigent Ill Cost Heavy—Los Angeles County Spends Million Per Year on Tuberculosis Outside Institutions.—Approximately \$1,000,000 is being spent annually by Los Angeles County in the care of tuberculous indigents who are not in county-owned institutions but are the legal responsibility of the County Charities Department, according to records on file in the offices of the department.

The tuberculous indigents are in addition to 970 patients in Olive View Sanatorium, the capacity of that institution, and 290 in the six tuberculosis wards of the General Hospital, which have a normal capacity of 233.

The \$1,000,000 is divided into three parts as follows:

Approximately \$480,000 for the annual cost of maintaining 870 patients in twenty-five privately owned rest homes.

Another \$405,000 is the estimated amount that will be needed this fiscal year as the total relief budgets for more than 1,600 cases confined in their own homes.

The balance of \$60,000 is for the medical care of this latter group.

Death of W. W. Beckett, President of California Medical Association in 1909.—The *Los Angeles Examiner*, in its issue of June 4, 1936, printed the following:

DEATH CALLS DOCTOR BECKETT

Medical Director Emeritus of Insurance Company Had Active Career

Dr. Wilbur Wesley Beckett, 79 years of age, leader of Los Angeles in the medical field and vice-president and medical director emeritus of the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company, died yesterday after a one-day illness.

Only last Sunday [May 31] Doctor Beckett, amid a group of friends and relatives, celebrated his birthday at his home at 2218 South Harvard Boulevard. Tuesday evening he suffered an apoplectic stroke.

Doctor Beckett came to California with his parents, who had crossed the country in a covered wagon in 1852, to Forest Grove, Oregon.

Doctor Beckett was graduated from the medical department of the University of Southern California in 1888, being a member of the institution's first graduating class. He took a postgraduate course in New York. Then he began his practice here, and in 1901 he entered the life insurance field.

He maintained his contact with the Southern California medical college, being dean emeritus of the institution and a trustee of the University. He was a past president of the California Medical Association and was a member of numerous clubs and organizations.

Doctor Beckett leaves two sons, Dr. Wilbur Archer Beckett and Francis Haynes Beckett; a niece, Miss Zella Keim, who has been living with the physician since the death of Mrs. Beckett six years ago, and two sisters, Mrs. Pernelia Keim of Glendale and Mrs. Elizabeth Phillips of Oakland.

Aid of Insects and Molds Shown to Doctors at American Medical Association Meeting.—Insects known to infest man, insects that heal certain human ailments, and molds that cut the cost of making medicines were on display by entomologists and chemists of the United States Department of Agriculture at the meeting of the American Medical Association (May 11-15) at Kansas City, Missouri.

Entomologists of the department prepared exhibits to show the part played by several flies in causing myiasis among human beings. Maggots of several species of flies—entering the body with food or drink—remain in the intestinal tract, causing severe abdominal pains, nausea, and headaches. The most common producers of intestinal myiasis are flesh flies, the rat-tailed maggot, the little house fly, and the latrine fly.

Where abundant, the nose bot-fly—normally parasitic in the head sinuses of sheep and goats—sometimes injures, or even blinds, people it happens to fly against. It deposits its maggots in the eyes of its victims.

In the North, Northwest, and East, children sometimes are infested with larvae of parasitic flies, which burrow into the skin, producing boil-like eruptions. Recovery is rapid with the removal of the maggots, unless a secondary infection develops.

Small first-stage larvae of horse bot-flies cause a peculiar form of dermatitis in man, seemingly most com-

mon in the north central states. Reddish, sinuous wheals, about one-eighth inch wide—the mark of larval movement beneath the skin—usually appear on the forearms. Physicians cut out these larvae or kill them by freezing a small area of the skin with ethylene chlorid or carbon dioxid "snow."

Larvae of ox warble flies occasionally attack man. Before breaking the skin, these larvae often move about through the body, with the accompaniment of paralytic and other grave symptoms.

Man is subject to attack also by screw-worms—the larvae of the parasitic blowfly that is a serious livestock pest in the South.

Following the use of maggots in the treatment of chronic osteomyelitis, entomologists of the Department of Agriculture have been studying how maggots produce their remarkable healing effects. They have found that the maggots excrete a substance called allantoin, a powerful healing agent.

The exhibit will describe this substance which has much the same healing effect as the maggots and is now substituted for the maggots themselves. At first isolated from maggot excretions, allantoin is now produced chemically from other sources.

Some of the results of putting molds to work to make various chemicals and the way it is done form part of the department's display. By the action of molds, corn sugar has been made to yield four substances used in medicine or in physiologic research—calcium gluconate, kojic acid, calcium d-lactate, and citric acid. Effective manufacturing methods developed by department chemists several years ago are now used by the industry. These improved methods are largely responsible for reducing the price of calcium gluconate—extensively used in calcium therapy—from \$150 to 50 cents a pound.

How to determine the presence of selenium in soils and vegetation and the effect of seleniferous vegetation on animals are shown in another exhibit.

The department also sent to the meeting samples of citrus fruit juices, apple concentrate, concentrated grapefruit juice, and apple, date, and pear sirups made by a process that insures indefinite retention of fresh flavors and nutritive properties.

LETTERS

Concerning evaluation of membership.

San Bernardino, California,
May 2, 1936.

My dear Doctor Warnshuis:

This will acknowledge receipt of my membership certificate in the California Medical Association for the year 1936.

This membership means much to me, and calls to my mind the pleasure I have had in associating with my fellow doctors in the more than fifty years that have elapsed since my admission to practice here in California. From November 11, 1885, to 1936 is a long time, and it has seen wonderful development in our profession. May the coming fifty years be as rich as have the last fifty, and may the profession continue to receive the benefit and inspiration from the Association that I have received during my many years of membership.

547 "D" Street.

Sincerely,

M. ANTOINETTE BENNETTE, M. D.

Concerning date of organization of the Alameda County Medical Association.

Oakland, California,
May 18, 1936.

To the Editor:—I am very much interested in the article, "The Lure of Medical History," in the *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE* for April, 1936, but may I direct attention to the error in the footnote on page 295 that the Alameda County Medical Association was organized early in 1871?

The Alameda County Medical Association was organized on August 25, 1860, and reorganized on October 18, 1869. I am the county society historian and have all